Sugar Buffer Stock

†248. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create buffer stock of sugar of 20 lakh tonnes during the ensuing two years due to sharp rise in the stock of sugar and the continuous reduction in its prices;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to fix the responsibility of maintaining the stocks and to pay in full the other expenditures incurred on this stock;

(c) whether Government have taken the advice of sugar industry in this matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for creation of buffer stock is under consideration of the Government. As per the SDF Rules, 1983, the buffer stock of sugar is to be stored in separate and distinctively identifiable stocks and lots and in separate godowns within the premises of the sugar undertakings.

(c) and (d) Indian Sugar Mills Association and National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd. have requested the Government for creation of buffer stock.

Formula for Pricing of Sugarcane

249. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a new formula for pricing of sugarcane country wide;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be effective; and

(c) what would be the main features of the new formula?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government has referred the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugarcane pricing to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they have been requested to recommend new sugarcane pricing policy. Government's policy in this regard would depend on the recommendations to be made by the CACP.

Export of Foodgrains

250. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported by the Food Corporation of India and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last two years;

(b) what are the specific problems encountered in developing our export potential and the steps taken to overcome them;

(c) the long term perspective developed for export of foodgrains as an integral part of the export strategy; and

(d) what are the fresh specific measures initiated to improve our competitiveness in terms of quality, price and delivery of foodgrains as per prevailing international standards and the market practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) is not exporting foodgrains.

(b) to (c) Government had decided to offer foodgrains for exports to the Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private exporters. Various promotional measures have been taken by the Government as detailed below:

(i) Procedural restrictions like registration with APEDA in case of export of wheat, wheat products and non- basmati rice have been removed;

(ii) An empowered Standing Committee on Exports has been set up to take expeditious decisions.